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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 005535

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Penal code approved without adultery clause - Hurriyet  
Rumsfeld signals US may withdraw from Iraq - Sabah 9/26  
Angered at parliament, Khatami postpones Turkey visit -  
Milliyet  
Greek Cypriots expect UN to launch new Cyprus initiative -  
Hurriyet 9/26  
US launches Zarkawi operation in Fallujah - Milliyet 9/26  
British captive Bigley allegedly killed in Iraq - Hurriyet  
9/26  
TIME poll shows Bush leading Kerry by 6 points - Milliyet  
9/26  
"The Guardian" reveals grandfather Bush's Nazi ties -  
Hurriyet 9/26  
Iran tests strategic missile - Milliyet 9/26  
Israeli media boss wants to buy Al-Jazeera - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Violence never ends in Iraq: 23 killed - Zaman  
Fallujah a ruined city - Radikal 9/26  
Truckers targeted in Iraq: 10 killed - Cumhuriyet  
Bush, Allawi plan Iraq conference - Zaman 9/26  
Iraqi Shiite provinces demand autonomy - Zaman 9/26  
EU rapporteur: Turkey not ready for entry talks - Cumhuriyet  
9/26  
Israel assassinates Hamas leader in Damascus - Zaman  
Israel strikes Hamas in Damascus - Cumhuriyet  
Israel expands occupation of West Bank - Yeni Safak  
Greek Cypriot official blames 'TRNC' for training Chechen  
terrorists - Radikal  
UN: Sudan ready to grant autonomy for Darfur - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Parliament passes penal code reform: The Turkish Parliament adopted a major penal code reform on Sunday, clearing a major obstacle to Ankara's bid to start accession talks with the European Union. The law, which amends Turkey's 78-year-old penal code, is seen as the last legal reform required to align Turkish legislation with basic EU political norms. The Parliament was recalled from summer recess for Sunday's session after PM Erdogan agreed to drop plans to criminalize adultery in talks with EU officials in Brussels on Thursday. The new penal code expands freedom of expression, grants greater individual freedoms, and increases penalties for rights abusers and torturers. The law will be submitted to President Sezer for approval.

Brzezinski visits Ankara: On Friday, US Deputy Assistant Secretary Ian Brzezinski discussed cooperation on defense

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issues with Turkish military officials in Ankara. The US side raised with the Turkish General Staff (TGS) the possible redeployment of 48 F-16s from Germany to Incirlik Air base. The Turkish side raised the issue of the PKK presence in northern Iraq. The meeting was held as preparation for the Turkish-American high level defense group meetings to be held late this year.

Gul meets Powell: FM Abdullah Gul discussed Iraq, the PKK, and the safety of Turkish truckers in Iraq at a meeting with Secretary Powell in New York last Friday. Gul stressed that

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Turkey and the US are long-time allies who have been cooperating on many issues, not only in Iraq. 'Cooperation between our two countries can be seen from Afghanistan to the Balkans, from energy issues to the fight against terrorism,' Gul recalled, noting that US-Turkish cooperation

is not just in the military field. Secretary Powell pledged continued US attention to Turkish concerns including Kirkuk, trucker security, and the PKK. Gul is scheduled to meet with his Armenian and Chinese counterparts on Monday.

Khatemi postpones Turkey visit: President Mohammad Khatami has postponed a scheduled visit to Turkey after the Iranian parliament blocked two major contracts signed with Turkish companies. Khatemi's political rivals in parliament passed a bill giving them veto power over a deal signed with Turkcell, Turkey's biggest mobile phone operator, to set up the first Iranian private mobile phone network. The law passed by the Iranian parliament also targets a \$200 million contract with the Turkish-Austrian consortium TAV for construction and operations at Khomeini International Airport.

Peace Monitoring Force to end Mission in Iraq: "Cumhuriyet" reports that the Peace Monitoring Force, established in 1997 to ensure peace between rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, will be officially disbanded in October. Turkish members of the monitoring group will be pulled back to Turkey.

Turkish Red Crescent Employee Evacuated to Ankara: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Turkish Red Crescent employee Mustafa Pekcan, who had been critically wounded in a terrorist attack against a humanitarian convoy near Mosul last week has been successfully evacuated to an Ankara military hospital by US forces. The paper reports that Pekcan received care in Mosul by both Iraqi and US military doctors.

Kurdish lawmakers due in Brussels: Former DEP lawmaker Leyla Zana is to go to Brussels on October 12 to lobby for amnesty for members of the PKK/Kongra Gel. Papers speculate that Zana will try to persuade the EU to force Ankara to grant a 'political amnesty' to PKK members. Zana, accompanied by three other Kurdish lawmakers, will address the European Parliament and receive the Sakharov Prize in Brussels. Zana's request for a meeting with EU expansion commissioner Guenther Verheugen has not yet been confirmed.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Iran's Nuclear Program

"President Bush's Maneuver on Iraq": Yasemin Congar wrote from Washington in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/27): "On one hand, Washington is working diplomatically to secure more foreign troops in Iraq from countries such as Romania, Georgia and Fiji. But on the other hand, Washington has started making plans for a possible pull out from Iraq. There is strong speculation in Washington about a relatively quick withdrawal from Iraq in the event that President Bush is reelected. This argument is based on the observation that the neo-cons have realized that forming a stable democracy in Iraq remains a far-fetched dream. . The administration is looking at this argument, but has not yet come to the same conclusion. President Bush has repeatedly said that the US is not looking to 'escape' from Iraq, while Kerry promises a complete withdrawal by 2008 after establishing peace and order there. Nevertheless, sources close to both Kerry and Bush acknowledge the diminishing chances for success in Iraq, as they increasingly look at the situation as a 'new Vietnam.' . In any case, Turkey should be prepared for any scenario in Iraq, including the possibility of a US pull-out that delegates security to local Iraqi forces before order is fully established in the country."

"Iraq was not Enough -- Now it is Iran's Turn": Zafer Atay commented in the economic-political Dunya (9/27): "Recently, there have been intense discussions in Washington about how to end Iran's nuclear research program. Some say that a quick-strike operation will be carried out against Iran's 8 nuclear facilities. After destroying these facilities, Iran will either be invaded or a pro-western regime will be supported to take over power. In this way, Iran will be 'liberated' just like Iraq. . There is no doubt that the US, together with the UN and other western countries, would like to show that Iran's nuclear weapons will not be tolerated. All developing countries claim that the goal of their nuclear research is purely civilian. Both Pakistan and India exploded their atomic bombs at the same time they insisted on their commitment to peace. They then applied for membership in the 'nuclear club,' which the US was trying to maintain as an exclusive group. Most countries involved in nuclear projects open their doors to the Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Only a few, including North Korea, Israel, and Iran, want to continue their research behind closed doors. We recall that Israel attacked an Iraqi nuclear plant in the past. Did Israel have the right to carry out such an attack? No, it did not, because Israel also is carrying out a secret nuclear program that is not subject to outside control. Despite all this secrecy, neither the US, nor Britain, France, Germany or the

UN ever question Israel. Naturally, the real supporters of peace do not want the world turned into a nuclear waste site after a possible war. North Korea, Iran and Israel should give up their nuclear programs immediately."

EDELMAN